

(a) a plurality of video display devices each having associated

- (i) participant video capture capabilities, and
- (ii) participant audio
  - (1) capture and
  - (2) reproduction capabilities; and

(b) at least one communication path

- (i) along which signals
  - (1) representing participant audio and video
- (ii) can be transmitted,

wherein the system is configured to allow a selecting participant

- (i) to initiate
  - (1) collaboration
- (ii) by selecting
  - (1) one or more participants
    - i. from among a plurality of potential participants, and
  - (2) at least one collaboration type
    - i. from among a set of collaboration types,
- (iii) establishing communication
  - (1) of the selected type,
  - (2) with the selected participant.
- (iv) thereby to define a teleconference call.

30. The teleconferencing system of claim 29, wherein the system allows the selecting participant to:

(a) select  
(i) one or more desired participants  
(ii) from a first set of the potential participants; and

(b) select  
(i) one or more desired participants  
(ii) from a second set of potential participants,  
(1) the second set being a subset of the first set, and thereby

(c) establish communication  
(i) with all selected participants.

31. The teleconferencing system of claim 30, wherein:

(a) the first set includes  
(i) names of the potential participants; and

(b) the second set includes  
(ii) icons representing the potential participants.

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~~32.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ~~29~~, wherein

(a) the set of collaboration types includes at least one of:  
(i) data conferencing, videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, sending faxes, sending electronic mail, and the sending of multimedia mail messages.

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~~33.~~ The teleconferencing system of claim ~~30~~, wherein

(a) the selecting participant

(b) can use

- (i) at least one computer graphic user interface
- (ii) to select
  - (1) at least one of the participant(s) and/or
  - (2) at least one of the collaboration types.

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34. The teleconferencing system of claim 29, wherein the system

(a) defaults to

- (i) to a default collaboration type
- (ii) upon selection of a participant.

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35. The teleconferencing system of claim 29, wherein the system

(a) allows pre-selecting

- (i) a desired participant; and
- (ii) a default collaboration type.

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36. The teleconferencing system of claim 29, wherein the system is configured to allow a participant:

(a) to select

- (i) a further participant
- (ii) from among a plurality of potential participants and

(b) add

- (i) the new participant

(i) to an active teleconference call.

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37. The teleconferencing system of claim 29, wherein the system is further configured to:

(a) detect

(i) during a first teleconference call

(1) between a first and a second participant,

(ii) an attempt

(1) by a third caller

(2) to initiate a second teleconference call

(3) with the second participant;

(b) notify

(i) the second participant

(ii) of the attempt; and

(c) allow

(i) the second participant

(ii) to add

(1) the third caller

(2) to the first teleconference call.

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38. The teleconferencing system of claim 29, wherein the system is configured to:

(a) allow

(i) at least one participant

(ii) access

- (1) to at least one audio and/or video signal source; and
- (b) reproduce
  - (i) audio and video
    - (1) based on signals
    - (2) from the accessed signal source
  - (ii) for another participant

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*39.* The teleconferencing system of claim *29*, wherein the system is configured to:

- (a) support a maximum number of N calls
  - (i) for a participant; and
  - (b) enable that participant,
    - (i) when faced with M, greater than N, possible calls,
    - (ii) to select N of the M possible calls.

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*40.* The teleconferencing system of claim *29*, wherein the system is configured to:

- (a) allow a participant
  - (i) in a teleconference call with
    - (1) a plurality of other participants
    - (ii) to place on hold
    - (iii) at least one of the other participants.

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*41.* The teleconferencing system of claim *29*, configured to:

- (a) allow a participant

- (i) in a teleconference call with
  - (1) a plurality of other participants
- (ii) to disconnect
- (iii) at least one of the other participants.

*sub E2*

42. A method for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants, each having an associated video capture and display and audio capture and reproduction capabilities, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting
  - (i) one or more desired participants
  - (ii) from among a plurality of potential participants;
- (b) selecting
  - (i) a desired collaboration type
  - (ii) from among a plurality of collaboration types;
- (c) establishing communication
  - (i) of the selected type,
  - (ii) with the selected participant,
- (d) thereby defining a teleconference call.

43. The method of claim 42, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting

- (i) one or more desired participants
- (ii) from a first set of the potential participants; and

(b) selecting

- (i) one or more desired participants
- (ii) from a second set of potential participants,
  - (1) the second set being a subset of the first set, and thereby

(c) establishing communications

- (i) with all selected participants.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein:

- (a) the first set includes
  - (i) names of potential participants; and
- (b) the second set includes
  - (i) icons representing potential participants.

15 45. The method of claim ~~44~~ 13, wherein

- (a) the plurality of collaboration types includes at least one of:
  - (i) data conferencing, videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, sending faxes, sending electronic mail and sending multimedia mail messages

16 46. The method of claim ~~42~~ 13, wherein

- (a) the step of selecting
  - (i) one or more participants

(ii) invokes a default collaboration type.

*17*  
~~47~~ The method of claim ~~42~~, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting
  - (i) a new participant
  - (ii) from among a plurality of potential participants; and
- (b) adding
  - (i) the new participant
  - (ii) to an active teleconference call.

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~~48~~ The method of claim ~~42~~, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting,
  - (i) during a first teleconference call
    - (1) between a first and a second participant,
    - (2) an attempt
      - (1) by a third caller
      - (2) to initiate a second teleconference call
      - (3) with the second participant;
  - (ii) notifying
    - (i) the second participant
    - (ii) of the attempt; and
- (b) adding
  - (i) the third caller

(ii) to the first teleconference call.

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49. The method of claim 42, further comprising the steps of

- (a) allowing at least one participant
  - (1) access to at least one audio and/or video signal source; and
- (b) reproducing video and/or audio
  - (i) based on signals,
  - (ii) from the accessed signal source;
  - (iii) for another participant.

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50. The method of claim 42, wherein a maximum number of calls equal to N can be supported for a participant,

the method further comprising the steps of:

- (a) enabling that participant,
  - (i) in a teleconference call,
  - (ii) when faced with M, greater than N, possible calls
  - (iii) to select N of the M possible calls.

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51. The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of

- (a) allowing a participant
  - (i) in a teleconference call with
    - (1) a plurality of other participants
  - (ii) to place on hold

(iii) at least one of the other participants.

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52. The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of

(a) allowing a participant.

(i) in a teleconference call with

(1) a plurality of other participants

(ii) to disconnect

(iii) at least one of the other participants.

53. A teleconferencing system

for conducting a teleconference

among a plurality of participants comprising:

(a) a plurality of video display devices each having associated

(i) participant video capture capabilities, and

(ii) participant audio

(1) capture and

(2) reproduction capabilities;

(b) at least one communication path

(i) along which signals

(1) representing participant audio and video

(ii) can be transmitted,

(c) a switch

(i) configured to switch

- (1) transmitted signals
- (2) between the participants, and.

wherein the system is configured to allow a selecting participant

- (i) to initiate
  - (1) any of a plurality of types of collaboration
- (ii) by selecting
  - (1) one or more desired participants
    - from among a plurality of potential participant, and
  - (2) desired collaboration type
    - from among a set of collaboration types, including, at least one of, data conferencing, videoconferencing, telephone conferencing, the sending of faxes and the sending of multimedia mail messages; and
- (iii) establishing communication
  - (1) of the selected type,
  - (2) with the selected participant(s).

54. A method for conducting a teleconference

among a plurality of participants, each having an associated video capture and display and audio and video AV capture and reproduction capabilities,

the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting
  - (i) one or more desired participants
  - (ii) from among a plurality of potential participants;